

Message Text

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17 11

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI TO SECS ATE WASHDC 7742

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WRINGS OUT THE OLD
AND WELCOMES THE NEW IN KARACHI

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WOUND UP HIS SECOND
YEAR IN OFFICE WITH A FLURRY OF CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES
AND POLITICKING DURING A YEAR END VISIT TO KARACHI,
WHICH COMMENCED DECEMBER 28 AND IS SCHEDULED TO
CONCLUDE JANUARY 4. PRIME MINISTER WHILE NOT ON
MEET-THE-PEOPLE TOUR, USED CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS TO
BURNISH HIS IMAGE AS LEADER OF GOVERNMENT MOTIVATED
BY WELFARE OF THE MASSES AND REITERATED GOVERNMENT'S
DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. VISIT
COINCIDED WITH JANUARY 1 GOP ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONALI-
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ZATION OF DOMESTIC BANKS (ISLAMABAD 0001), MARKETING
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND SHIPPING. END SUMMARY.

1. ENDING THE YEAR: ON FIRST FULL DAY IN CITY DECEMBER 29 PRIME MINISTER WENT ABOARD SHIP TO WITNESS PAK NAVY AND AIR FORCE EXERCISES. DECEMBER 30 PRIME* MINISTER LAID CORNERSTONE OF THE USSR-ASSISTED STEEL MILL TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT PIPRI (DETAILS BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM) AND ATTENDED THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF SIND PPP CONVENTION BEING HELD IN KARACHI. LAST DAY OF YEAR, IN BRIEF ADDRESS CONCLUDING MEETING OF SELECT GROUP OF 150 BUSINESSMAN-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES' PRIME MINISTER ASSURED BUSINESSMEN GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF FAIR COMPENSATION TO OWNERS OF NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES AND PROMISED MEETING TO CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN COUNTRY. LATER BHUTTO ADDRESSED FINAL SESSION OF SIND PPP CONVENTION ASSURING ATTENDEES NO INJUSTICE WOULD BE DONE TO THEM AND CORRUPT PPP WORKERS AND LEADERS WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN.

2. BEGINNING THE NEW: FOLLOWING JANUARY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NATIONALIZATION OF DOMESTIC BANKS, PETROLEUM PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION AND SHIPPING (DETAILS AND REACTIONS BEING REPORTED IN SEPARATE MESSAGES) PRIME MINISTER PRESIDED OVER HIGH LEVEL ECONOMIC MEETING WHICH REPORTEDLY FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON PROBLEM OF RISING PRICES AND MEANS OF CONTROLLING THIS RISE. JANUARY 2 PRIME MINISTER PRESIDED OVER FORMAL COMMISSIONING OF 8 RECONSTRUCTED AND IMPROVED BERTHS AT KARACHI PORT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DOCK WORKERS WOULD RECIPROCATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LABOR BY INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPROVING THEIR DISCIPLINE. LATER IN DAY THE PRIME MINISTER OPENED NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOSPITAL IN NORTH NAZIMABAD AND REASSURED PEOPLE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DEVOTED TO ENDING SOCIAL INJUSTICE. NO PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 3 AND, FOLLOWING MID-DAY LUNCHEON JANUARY 4 FOR SIND PPP MPA'S AND MNA'S, PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR LARKANA TO SPEND ID.

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3. POLITICKING: DURING STAY PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY CONFERRED SEVERAL TIMES WITH NEW SIND CHIEF MINISTER JATOI ABOUT COMPOSITION OF PROVINCIAL CABINET WHICH EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED IN DAY OR TWO FOLLOWING CURRENT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. PRIME MINISTER ON JANUARY 2 MET WITH BALUCHISTAN CHIEF MINISTER JAM SAHIB OF LAS BELA FOLLOWING AKBAR BUGTI'S ABDICATION OF BALUCHISTAN GOVERNORSHIP (DETAILS SEPTEL) AND ALSO WITH BALUCHISTAN GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE, THE KHAN OF KALAT. EVENING 30

DECEMBER AT INFORMAL DINNER ATTENDED BY NUMBER OF
YOUNGER KARACHI BUSINESSMEN, PRIME MINISTER SAID
THAT NO FURTHER NATIONALIZATION IN VIEW, WHICH PROVED
TO BE MISLEADING STATEMENT WHEN NEW NATIONALIZATION
MEASURES ANNOUNCED JANUARY 1.
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